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**From:** Kelley, Jeff [kelley.jeff@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 11/2/2021 7:35:44 PM  
**To:** Cisar, Elizabeth [Cisar.Elizabeth@epa.gov]; Bauer, Candice [bauer.candice@epa.gov]; Blount, Keyyana [blount.keyyana@epa.gov]; Davis, Sheila [Davis.Sheila@epa.gov]; Fong, Tera [Fong.Tera@epa.gov]; McLain, Jennifer L. [McLain.Jennifer@epa.gov]; Murray, Regan [Murray.Regan@epa.gov]; Newton, Cheryl [Newton.Cheryl@epa.gov]; Tejada, Matthew [Tejada.Matthew@epa.gov]; Thompson, Anita [Thompson.Anita@epa.gov]; Wadlington, Christina [Wadlington.Christina@epa.gov]; Walts, Alan [walts.alan@epa.gov]; Wehling, Carrie [Wehling.Carrie@epa.gov]; Harris, Michael [harris.michael@epa.gov]; Theis, Joseph [Theis.Joseph@epa.gov]; Erhunse, Adesuwa [erhunse.adesuwa@epa.gov]; Lewis, Sheila [Lewis.Sheila@epa.gov]

## EGLE Statement: Finding of deficiencies

Today the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) announced the results of a joint inspection in September of the Benton Harbor Water Treatment Plant that found numerous deficiencies.

The shortcomings were identified in an order issued today by the EPA.

The deficiencies are part of a legacy of decades of disinvestment in the city's century-old water system, amplified by the myriad challenges of an environmental justice community with shrinking population served by a water system designed for twice the customers and twice the rate base.

There are no fines associated with this action.

"This is not intended as a punitive exercise, but rather a transparent way of identifying the pressing needs of the Benton Harbor community so that federal, state, local and community partners can work together to prioritize them as we continue our work to ensure all Benton Harbor residents have access to safe drinking water," said Liesl Clark, EGLE director. "EGLE will continue to work to assist residents with both the system problems evident at the facility, and, more pressingly, the current lead issue that is, appropriately, the immediate focus of our resources."

Michigan EGLE is committed to continuing to assist the city and partners in sourcing solutions and funding to ensure Benton Harbor residents are served by a high-quality drinking water system.

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